



6. (Original) The necktie holder of claim 1, further comprising indentations in the flexible body to permit folding the flexible body so as to position the tie slot out of plane with the interior mouth.

7. (Original) The necktie holder of claim 6, wherein the flexible body is resilient so that, when folded, the flexible body exerts a resilient force on a necktie attached to the shirt, the force being directed away from the shirt and causing a portion of the necktie to be positioned away from the shirt.

8. (Original) The necktie holder of claim 7, further comprising a finger extending away from the tie slot, which modifies force applied to the necktie.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a necktie to a shirt having buttons extending up to a collar, each shirt button being attached to the shirt by threading, comprising the steps of:

- passing a selected shirt button into a channel in a flexible plastic holder;
- urging the threading of the selected shirt button past constrictions in the flexible plastic holder until the selected shirt button is seated beyond the constrictions;
- disposing a length of the necktie in a tie slot of the flexible plastic holder;
- folding the necktie over the flexible plastic holder to conceal the flexible plastic holder; and
- bending the flexible plastic holder so as to place the tie slot in a first plane and the interior mouth in a second plane which is different than the first plane the first and second planes intersecting at a hinge that defines an acute angle therebetween, and thus positioning the folded necktie over the selected button, whereby the necktie is secured to the shirt and the flexible plastic holder is concealed beneath the necktie.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the passing step comprises passing a button that is proximate to the collar into the channel of the flexible plastic holder.

{W:\04394\000M881\US0\00316792.DOC [REDACTED]}

Appl. No.: 10/650,133

Amdt. Dated Dec. 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of Nov. 18, 2004